

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-59 (Canceled).

60. (Original) A method of fixing an article of clothing to itself, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plastic fastener, said plastic fastener comprising

(i) a flexible filament, said flexible filament having a first end, a second end, and a length, said length being suitable to fixedly retain the article of clothing against itself,

(ii) an inserting element disposed at said first end, said inserting element being dimensioned to enable its insertion through the article of clothing and, once inserted therethrough, to be retained by the article of clothing, and

(iii) a retaining element disposed at said second end, said retaining element being dimensioned to prevent said flexible filament from being pulled completely through the article of clothing; and

(b) inserting said inserting element of said plastic fastener into and completely through the article of clothing at at least a pair of locations therein, with said retaining element not being inserted into the article of clothing.

61. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 60 wherein said flexible filament has a tensile strength of 2-4 lbs.

62. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 61 wherein said flexible filament has a tensile strength of 2 lbs.

63. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 60 wherein said flexible filament has a length of approximately 3-5 mm.

64. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 63 wherein said flexible filament has a length of approximately 4.3 mm.

65. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 60 wherein the article of clothing is a dress shirt and wherein said flexible filament has a tensile strength of 2-4 lbs. and a length of approximately 3-5 mm.

66. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 65 wherein said flexible filament has a tensile strength of 2 lbs. and a length of approximately 4.3 mm.

Claim 67 (Canceled).

68. (Currently amended) The A method as claimed in claim 67 of fixing an article of commerce to a support, wherein the article of commerce is a dress shirt and wherein the support is a cardboard backing, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plastic fastener, said plastic fastener comprising

(i) a flexible filament, said flexible filament having a first end, a second end and a length, said length being suitable to fixedly retain the article of commerce against the support,

(ii) an inserting element disposed at said first end, said inserting element being dimensioned to enable its insertion through the article of commerce and the support and, once inserted therethrough, to be retained thereby, and

(iii) a retaining element disposed at said second end, said retaining element being dimensioned to prevent said flexible filament from being pulled completely through the article of commerce and the support; and

(b) inserting said inserting element of said plastic fastener into and completely through the article of commerce and the support, with said retaining element not being inserted into either the article or the support, in such a way as to fix the article of commerce to the support.

69. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 68 wherein said flexible filament has a tensile strength of 2-4 lbs.

70. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 69 wherein said flexible filament has a tensile strength of 2 lbs.

71. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 70 wherein said flexible filament has a length of approximately 3-5 mm.

72. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 71 wherein said flexible filament has a length of approximately 4.3 mm.

73. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~67~~ 68 wherein ~~the article of commerce is a dress shirt, wherein the support is a cardboard backing and wherein~~ said flexible filament has a tensile strength of 2-4 lbs. and a length of approximately 3-5 mm.

74. (Original) A method of coupling an article of commerce to a support, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plastic fastener, said plastic fastener comprising

(i) a flexible filament, said flexible filament having a first end, a second end, a tensile strength of approximately 2-4 lbs. and a length of approximately 3-5 mm;

(ii) an inserting element disposed at said first end, said inserting element being dimensioned to enable its insertion through the article of commerce and the support and, once inserted therethrough, to be retained thereby, and

(iii) a retaining element disposed at said second end, said retaining element being dimensioned to prevent said flexible filament from being pulled completely through the article of commerce and the support in the direction of said inserting element; and

(b) inserting said inserting element of said plastic fastener into and completely through the article of commerce and the support.

Claims 75-81 (Canceled).

82. (Original) A method of fixing together two elements, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plastic fastener, said plastic fastener comprising

(i) a flexible filament, said flexible filament having a first end, a second end, a length and a tensile strength, said length being suitable to fix the two elements together, said tensile strength being sufficiently strong to keep the two elements fixed together during normal handling and yet sufficiently weak to enable the two elements to be separated from one another without being damaged by said plastic fastener merely by having the two elements pulled away from each other until said flexible filament breaks,

(ii) an inserting element disposed at said first end, said inserting element being dimensioned to enable its insertion through the two elements and, once inserted therethrough, to be retained by the two elements, and

(iii) a retaining element disposed at said second end, said retaining element being dimensioned to prevent said flexible filament from being pulled completely through the two elements; and

(b) inserting said inserting element of said plastic fastener into and completely through the two elements, with said retaining element not being inserted into the two elements.

83. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 82 wherein said two elements are different portions of a single article of clothing.

84. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 83 wherein said article of clothing is a dress shirt.

85. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 84 wherein said length of said flexible filament is approximately 4.3 mm and wherein said tensile strength of said flexible filament is approximately 2 lbs.

86. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 82 wherein one of said two elements is an article of clothing and wherein the other of said two elements is a cardboard support.

87. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 86 wherein said article of clothing is a dress shirt.

88. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 87 wherein said length of said flexible filament is approximately 4.3 mm and wherein said tensile strength of said flexible filament is approximately 2 lbs.

89. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 87 wherein said article of clothing is an article of clothing for a doll.

90. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 89 wherein said article of clothing is a doll's dress.

91. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 87 wherein said length of said flexible filament is approximately 4.3 mm and wherein said tensile strength of said flexible filament is approximately 2 lbs.

92. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 82 wherein said two elements are two articles of clothing.

93. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 92 wherein said two elements are a pair of socks.

94. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 82 wherein said two elements are two sheets of paper.

95. (Original) A method of coupling together two or more sheets of paper, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plastic fastener, said plastic fastener comprising

(i) a flexible filament, said flexible filament having a first end, a second end, a length and a tensile strength, said tensile strength being sufficiently strong to keep the sheets of paper coupled together during normal handling and yet sufficiently weak to enable the sheets of paper to be separated from one another without being damaged by said plastic fastener merely by pulling the sheets of paper away from each other until said flexible filament breaks,

(ii) an inserting element disposed at said first end, said inserting element being dimensioned to enable its insertion through the sheets of paper and, once inserted therethrough, to be retained by the sheets of paper, and

(iii) a retaining element disposed at said second end, said retaining element being dimensioned to prevent said flexible filament from being pulled completely through the sheets of paper; and

(b) inserting said inserting element of said plastic fastener into and completely through the sheets of paper, with said retaining element not being inserted into the sheets of paper.

Claims 96-129 (Canceled).